

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 17-18, 20, 25-30 and 32 as indicated in the listing of claims.

Please cancel claim 31 without prejudice and/or disclaimer. Claims 2-16 and 21-24 were previously canceled.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO: [[3,]] 4 or 5.

2-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The ~~isolated marine actinomycete~~ strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1, wherein ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* is obtained from sediment.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for producing a biomolecule, comprising culturing ~~a marine actinomycete~~ a strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1 in a sodium containing growth media, wherein the biomolecule is produced by ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora*;

collecting ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* or the sodium containing growth media containing the biomolecule; and extracting the biomolecule from ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* or the sodium containing growth media, thereby producing the biomolecule.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The isolated ~~marine actinomycete~~ strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1, wherein SEQ ID NOs: [[3,]] 4 or 5 have signature nucleotides not found in other *Micromonosporaceae* 16S rRNAs.

26. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated ~~marine actinomycete~~ strain of *Salinospora* of claim 25, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

27. (Currently amended) An ~~marine actinomycete~~ isolated strain of *Salinospora* having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO: [[3,]] 4 or 5 and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

28. (Currently amended) An isolated ~~marine actinomycete~~ strain of *Salinospora* having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein ~~the marine actinomycete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising a 16S rRNA and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366

is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

29. (Currently amended) The ~~marine actinomyete~~ strain of *Salinospora* of claims ~~26-28~~ 26, 27 or 28, wherein ~~the marine actinomyete~~ the strain of *Salinospora* is obtained from sediment.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claims ~~26-28~~ 26, 27 or 28, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.